

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02  
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /093 W  
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R 281158Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2277  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EGEN, EEWT, GW, UR  
SUBJECT: FRG-USSR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
TO OBTAIN LESS ELABORATE PARLIAMENTARY  
APPROVAL THAN ANTICIPATED

REFS: A) BONN 8282, B) BONN 9061

1. SUMMARY. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN KLAUS BOELLING  
ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 25 THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD  
DECIDED NOT TO SUBMIT FRG-USSR ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
AGREEMENT (SIGNED DURING BREZHNEV VISIT TO  
BONN LAST MAY) TO PARLIAMENT FOR FORMAL RATIFICATION  
AS WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. INSTEAD, PARLIAMENT WILL  
ACT ON AGREEMENT BY RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL OR  
DISAPPROVAL. OFFICIAL REASON GIVEN FOR GOVERNMENT'S  
CHANGE IN APPROACH WAS THAT FORMAL RATIFICATION  
PROCEDURE WOULD TAKE TOO LONG. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE SIGNING OF AGREEMENT BY SCHMIDT AND  
BREZHNEV IN MAY 1978, MANY IN SPD, INCLUDING  
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, HAVE, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS,  
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AIMED FOR SUBMISSION OF THIS AGREEMENT TO PARLIAMENT  
FOR RATIFICATION AS TREATY ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 59,  
PARAGRAPH 2 OF GRUNDGESETZ (BASIC LAW). CDU/CSU,  
WHILE NOT OPPOSING SUBSTANCE OF AGREEMENT, HAS  
OBJECTED TO HANDLING IT AS TREATY UNDER ARTICLE 59,  
PREFERRING THAT IT BE TREATED AS OTHER MORE ROUTINE  
GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS, I.E., THAT IT BE ACTED ON BY

PARLIAMENT BY RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.

3. SPD OBJECTIVES IN SUBMITTING FRG-USSR AGREEMENT TO PARLIAMENT FOR FORMAL RATIFICATION WERE APPARENTLY TO SHOW MOSCOW THAT FRG VIEWED AGREEMENT AS SERIOUS COMMITMENT AND TO FACE OPPOSITION WITH A DILEMMA OVER WHETHER TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE TREATY. LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER REPORTEDLY ADVISED SCHMIDT OF DANGEROUS PRECEDENT SUCH PROCEDURE WOULD CREATE FOR FOREIGN POLICY FLEXIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT. GENSCHER AND OTHER FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS WERE REPORTEDLY CONCERNED THAT GOVERNMENT COULD BE FORCED TO SUBMIT OTHER AGREEMENTS TO PARLIAMENT FOR RATIFICATION IF EXCEPTION WERE MADE FOR FRG-USSR AGREEMENT.

4. CHANCELLOR SEEMS TO HAVE BASED FINAL DECISION NOT TO UTILIZE TREATY RATIFICATION PROCEDURE ON CONCERN THAT DISCUSSION OF AGREEMENT COULD TURN INTO MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF OSTPOLITIK, IN THE PROCESS THROWING NEGATIVE LIGHT ON AGREEMENT. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN PRESS SPECULATION THAT A DESIRE TO AVOID ANY INDICATION OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR, ESPECIALLY IN EYES OF WESTERN ALLIES, MAY ALSO HAVE PLAYED ROLE IN SCHMIDT'S DECISION.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TREATY RATIFICATION, ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRG-USSR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO OBTAIN LESS ELABORATE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL THAN ANTICIPATED  
**TAGS:** EGEN, EEWT, GE, UR  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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